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Letter from Joanna M[uir] Brown to John Muir, 1896 Oct 1.

Joanna Muir Brown

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Portage Wis.
Oct. 1. 1896

My dear Arthur John:—

Your very kind letter of the 22nd Sept. came several days ago. And although you refused my request, yet the loving interest which you express in our welfare is more to me than the simple granting of a favor; for unselfish love is scarce in this world and is all the more to be appreciated.

I cannot however see the matter under consideration in the light in which you do, and so must remain unchanged in my purpose. For in the first place to reunite our little family really is the

only course which I can pursue for my brain whirls and my heart sickens whenever I try to contemplate any other course of procedure. Besides, when you speak in Maggie's letter of my placing the money in your or Lucia's care, I do not believe you fully consider what such a course would ultimately lead to. And I care more for my husband's confidence than for any amount of money.

Moreover, if there is nothing standing between me & my children and starvation, but just this seven or eight hundred dollars than all I have to say is—the sooner it comes the better; for if I were to be hung I should not want to be compelled to examine the ropes and scaffold every day, I should want it over with at once.

But seriously John, I have more faith than all that; more faith in God, and more faith in Walter. I believe Walter has a future yet in with standing the fearful lesson he has needed to learn and which has been such a trial to us both.

God has many times during these years of bitter loneliness honored me with his near presence whispering peace, and giving me some precious promises concerning Walter and the future, so I cannot but follow where He leads no matter how the advices to the contrary. And no matter how dark the way may be even yet through which He leads me. All I want to know is where my duty lies and if I could believe it were still in Portage, there in Portage it would have to be. But as it now appears to me that is no right way, but to use my little portion in reuniting our broken family, whenever it becomes possible.

With greater love than ever
Your Sister
Joanna M. Brown

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